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CIVIL WAR LETTER OF WILLIS REID
11TH INDIANA BAND
WRITTEN AT VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, 1863

**[Owned in the 1960s by Frank E. Edwards,
R.1, Knightstown, Indiana]**

**Copied in the 1960s for the collection of
Allen County Public Library by Fred J. Reynolds**

David 11th Grade
Camp below Victoria, B.C.
Dallan en. Aug. 24, 1903

Friend Emma,
Last Friday evening
was a most lovely time with
us. Bauld - the long expected mail
brought us news and letters from
our friends at home. Yes it
was a lovely scene and it
would have done you my soul
good to have seen the bright, and swif-
ling faces of the boys and wit-
nessed their buoyancy of spirit as
their eager eyes traced the
fright-fusion lines of cheer-penned
by absent ones who still remember us
and think enough of us to write
us occasionally. One I thank
you even so much for that lengthy
good, and interesting letter of

The 17th ulto which reached me the 31st. I had begun to think you had not rec^d my letter or perhaps had forgotten me and I was really startled to be the recipient of such an interesting letter. Your absence from home was a very good excuse for the tardiness of your reply.

I wrote to your mother a day or so ago. - I think it was Friday - in answer to a letter

of June 27th. - I am sitting not behind Earl's but in the shade. it affords - as it has been quite sunny all day - me a wide it is beginning to cloud up and perhaps before a fresh it may blow up a rain. -

My working-day is a hard one with nails and nail-holds. Knobs and cracks - so you see it's any

thing but smooth and my legs serve a double purpose - they make excellent lath-logs! - there you call. - He has laid down and thinks he is going to have a chill.

But I hope not. No blessing as to be so highly prized as health - and to be put in

the army as far as different from being sick at home, where kindly hands spare no pains to relieve the sufferer. - Thus is the Sabbath but to us there is no difference and no day is as much respected as another. - No war

pleasantly surprised today by Major Brewster's meeting his appearance and dealing out our ration of 'currency'. We now have light hearts and heavy pockets - but the latter condition will soon be changed. - We propose

making a pleasure-trip to Hatch-
et (Minn.) and perhaps stay
during the summer. The 1st
Brigade of our Division, went
and board the transports last
night and went sailing down
the river this morning. Warren
Ballard is your man, if our
Brigade don't follow them up -
word is - yes! What about it?
What "spots" of fun we are hav-
ing! I had hoped - and I don't think
I shall ever be reconciled to you
carefully if we are separated.
Do you think so? It is re-
ported that our whole Corps
is going down to Garrison, Mich.,
if this is so and again sum-
mer campaign is on - and
more dodging to do now - but
hold! there is another report - that
we are to meet McPherson at Ma-
in. The latter shall be a
little more dodging to do. Well

it has been demonstrated that
a fellow loses nothing by being
"polite" to passing balls. But
enough of that -
Sergeant Ed. Hager has your
home in Spaulding. He said
he was going over to H. - he
for his return - if you get
to see him here tell him how
we are getting along and answer
any questions about us. I told
him to give you all my respects.
You must send me a letter
by him. I say must.
I suppose you'll return "K. H. R."
Bugs. "Fair" returns "after de."
dodging a week or so's good trade
new names. But may be "Em"
in under ground and had been
"heads light" - and "my eye"
about you H. R. & cards. -

I suppose it - must be rather
a "dry" place this summer ain't
it - the good folks are so
much interested in war matters &
think of much else.

The Sabbath eve is pleasant. A
great breeze is blowing from across
the river. Now I should have enjoyed
this day as bonnie. I - attending
Church and Sabbath school and visit-
ing my friends the remainder of
the day. Now don't think too
getting home-sick for me not.

We enjoy ourselves hugely. -
We talk of it - mind it's - my
frequently want of the good things
we store for us after the "crisis"
war is over. I & Carl wish
to be remembered to you. My best
to the "Michigan Club" and all inquiring
friends. Now is the time of getting along.
Em. I want you to write soon

and write often to me already.
told you of the great pleasure it
is to be willing to receive letters
and would like to make the
proposition to you that we write
regularly say every two weeks on
any day you may determine upon
whether answer to our last or not?
every time or not. I hope you
will accept. By this means we
can have a most interesting
correspondence. I shall await
reply before I write again. - I'd
like to take another cruise down
from you.

Excuse pardon my prolixity
this time. I don't feel like I
was understanding you a particle;
so for this time I bid you good-
bye. Hoping to hear from you
soon I am your well-wisher
(and friend)
Fred. Friedl.

J. S. Em I forgot to answer
your speaking in regard to the
"D.H." I intended it into
your name for an especial
good reason but to be doing
as you know I'm always up
to something of the kind
as it is I shall still retain
it and translate it for you
"D.H. - D.H. - D.H. -"

Yours Truly
John Miller

Willis Reid
11th St. East

Ed. Red. Chap. No. 2

It is springing me a
thought it will when I begin. Can
say times in our for a few days.

Of your own company of Eliza and John and their

Don will and my love to you.

W.



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